

## KEYNOTE SPEECH

Dr. Kuniko INOBUCHI

Professor of Political Science, Sophia University Faculty of Law

Former Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament

### “Seeking together for a path of hope”

After the opening ceremony Dr. Inobuchi gave a most informative lecture. She touched upon her active experience on the international stage as permanent representative and ambassador of Japan to the conference on disarmament, and explained in detail how that international decision was transformed into action. Children who are in tune with the next generation will take the baton from adults in the future and have the mental attitude to establish a peaceful world. To realize this, she taught us about the ability to learn a lesson from this now.



### ● Desire is the origin of change.

In the age of globalization there are numerous struggles throughout the world. We discuss and make policy at international conference halls but in order to substantially change people's lives, the global (international agreements) and the local (local area activities) must be united in one set. Wide-ranging international agreements are made in this era; nevertheless it is important that local areas all the more tackle their own problems. I am strongly encouraged to see this action taken by the children of future who regard the landmine issue as your own problem.

### ● ‘Imagination’ and ‘Capacity Building’

**Imagination** People are essentially hung up on their experience. It is important that we put our imagination to work and to take an interest in the problems of a world we have not experienced. Above all we must see the faces of the survivors, hear their voices and by so doing break down our own inabilities and become the person who can make active contributions in many roles. We want all the survivors of landmines to help us compensate for our own lack of ability.

**Capacity Building** Children absorb everything and improve your abilities. For example you can overcome cultural barriers when communicating in the world by knowing English and several other languages. This is how new worlds are opened, so study another language while you are young. On the other hand, you should not expect to say in English what you can not say in Japanese. It is also important that you learn to explain what you are thinking logically in your own native tongue.

### ● Helping people = Forming network connections

When helping people perhaps it is necessary to first provide food and medicines. However if we think more deeply, it is important to form networks. This network consists of information, people, and opportunity. The separation of these three tends to be the cause of poverty, deprivation, oppression, and war.

### ● Survivor's way of life

Japan is the only country that was the victim of atomic attack, therefore we in Japan are the survivors of mass destructive weapons. Beyond being a leader in making international rules, we also indicate how survivors can make a contribution to the world. To become a leader of the next generation is also a survivor's way of life. We hope that all survivors of landmines will believe that they too can become leaders.

## ● **Generational continuance**

The problem of arms reduction is big and deep. I do not think these problems can be solved in the next 10-20 years. If they cannot be solved by one ambassador or in one generation, they will be solved by the generations in years to come. In continuing this effort, each individual's own actions are important. Please estimate what you excel in and make it a habit to develop your abilities in each aspect when you are young. And imagine those who do not have the opportunity for education or advancement and think about your own social responsibilities. The first responsibility is to value yourself, survive this tough world, and to improve your abilities.

## ● **'Arms Reduction' and 'Reconciliation Process' leads to permanent peace.**

As an adult's responsibility, the elimination of war is a very important point. In talking about why wars repeatedly occur, it is because they are concluded badly. When arms reduction and the reconciliation process are well managed, war will not reoccur.

**Arms Reduction** The direction of settling disputes by violence is all too easy to take, and the proliferation of small arms in our living space makes it extremely difficult to solve problems by non-violent means. When problems arise, there are cases where to somehow settle it peaceably becomes very difficult and small arms illegally spread and accumulate all around, so we must collect and destroy all the small arms.

**Reconciliation process** Today's wars are tribal and religious conflicts of long deep-rooted hatred that settles over communities. To solve these, it is necessary to establish a reconciliatory process that will lead to reconciliation. A forgiving spirit is born when the other person completely admits the truth. No matter how hard it is, seeking for the truth is the basic start.

I think all starting lines are to have the power of imagination to overcome the small world that you have experienced. Everybody, use your thoughts and feelings as an opportunity to broaden your imagination about the things you have not yet seen or heard. Make every effort at self awareness to keep up with that time.